



Mrs. Deborah Sampson Gannett

Wed. March 16, 2016

She fought in the revolution —and went on to fight congress!

Honorably discharged at the end of the war in 1783, Deborah — or Private Robert Shurtleff, as she was known to the Army — returned to Massachusetts, married a farmer and raised three children plus a foundling whose mother died in childbirth. Working mom that she was, she also published her memoirs, did some business with Paul Revere at Cobb's Tavern in Sharon, Massachusetts and traveled extensively, presenting her wartime experiences to audiences throughout New England. For almost 30 years, she petitioned government officials for back pay and benefits she believed she was owed for her military service — never letting up.

Join us on March 16, 2016 to hear more about this remarkable, ordinary woman and make some noise on her behalf. By sharing her story, you can help to ensure that the next time the tale of American independence gets sung from the rooftops (or Broadway stage), women like Deborah get a spot in the sequel.

Programs at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. will be led by Alison Leigh Cowan, a former New York Times reporter who wrote about Mrs. Gannett for the Huffington Post in connection with a plan to feature women on the currency. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about Deborah Sampson Gannett, America's oft-forgotten revolutionary war heroine. Admission is free.



Plan Your Visit

Federal Hall National Memorial, at 26 Wall Street, honors the spot in downtown New York where Americans gathered in 1789 to see General George Washington inaugurated as the nation's first president. The building is open Mon. to Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ranger-guided tours are offered daily at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

For more information about Federal Hall or its programs, call 212-825-6990 or visit www.nps.gov/feha. Twitter: @FederalHallNPS. Directions and maps available at www.mta.info.

Illustration courtesy of West Point Museum Collection, United States Military Academy